

Remarks

Summary of the Office Action - Status of the claims

Claims 1-22 were pending in the Office Action.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Interview Summary

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the telephonic interviews with the Applicant's attorney of record on October 2, 2007, December 18, 2007, and January 2, 2008. In accordance with MPEP § 713.04, Applicant summarizes herewith the details of the interviews with the Examiner.

During the interviews, the subject matter of the pending claims was discussed. An agreement was reached that the claims would be in condition for allowance if the claims were clarified by amendment. Applicant has authorized the Examiner to enter such an Amendment as an Examiner's Amendment.

Applicant's Response

In this response, Applicant amends claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16, and 20, adds new claims 23-25, and addresses the Examiner's rejections. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the application. Amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite

prosecution and do not constitute an acquiescence to any of the Examiner’s objections or rejections. Applicant reserves the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in a subsequent application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1, 5-8, 12-16, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,205,456 to Nakao et al. (“Nakao”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,098,034 to Razin et al. (“Razin”). In the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Nakao in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,333 to McGreevy (“McGreevy”).

Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16, and 20 and added claims 23-25 as discussed in the telephonic interviews with the Examiner to further clarify the invention without relinquishing any subject matter. Claims 1, 8, and 16 now recite “performing temporal processing by applying a timestamp to the phrases in the phrase intersection table and ordering the phrases based on the timestamps.” As discussed in the interview, the claims are now patentable over Nakao, Razin, and McGreevy, either alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and that the Examiner enter the Amendments detailed above as an Examiner’s Amendment.

As discussed during the telephonic interviews, Applicant submits that “ambiguous” as recited in claims 5, 12, 20, and 23-25 find support in the specification at page 8, which recites:

In certain cases, phrases may include ambiguous temporal references, such as today, yesterday, etc. In this case, such ambiguous references can be replaced by a date certain reference, such as by changing “Yesterday it was reported....” to “On 01/02/200, it was reported...”.

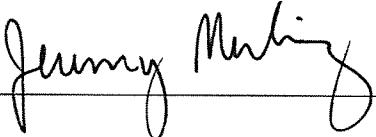
Also, as discussed during the telephonic interviews, Applicant submits that “computer readable media” finds support in the specification at page 3, which recites a CD-ROM and magnetic storage (e.g. hard disk) as examples of computer readable media. The recitation of “computer readable media” in the claims does not intend to claim a signal.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Remarks, Applicant believes this application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge payment of any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 2, 2008



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